

INDIANA COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING MINUTES

January 17, 2008 10:00am – 12:00pm
Indiana Government Center South
Conference Room A
402 W. Washington St., Indianapolis, IN

Members in Attendance: Noble Stallons, Anita McColleston, John (Bob) Johnson, Roxsandra Clemons-McFarthing, Ed Gottschling, Humbert Lopes

Members Absent: Geneva Sams, Glen Bonsett, Richard (Dick) Grace, Doris Parker, Lena Roberson

Staff in Attendance: Ginny Morris, Ellen Burton, Celeste Stinson, Julia Holloway, Willie Poindexter

Visitors: LaNita Garmany, Linda Muckway, Dee Ann Hart

Noble Stallons brought the meeting to order and Commission members introduced themselves, as did audience members. A motion to approve the November 15th minutes was made by Anita McColleston and seconded by Humbert Lopes, with unanimous approval from the Commission.

Blake Jackson, Vice-Chair of the CHOICE Board, addressed the Commission. The Commission is welcome to the CHOICE meeting but they needn't feel pressured or obligated to attend.

The Division of Aging's Ginny Morris introduced herself and gave a presentation on the Challenge Grant from the National Council on Aging. Ginny distributed packets of information to the Commission and asked for questions.

Noble requested information about the eligibility for becoming a Master Trainer for the program. Ginny said those people must be trained by a Master Trainer and ISDH has three staff members that are considered Master Trainers, having traveled to Stanford to complete the accreditation program.

Anita inquired about the criteria for becoming a Master Trainer. Ginny said that she would look up the criteria and e-mail the Commission members.

Noble asked Ginny about any state projects focusing on healthy living and prevention. Ginny said the Administration on Aging provides Title III-D funding for disease prevention and health programs and all area agencies receive a portion of that money. The Title III-D funding is very flexible, as it can be used for a variety of activities, including health training, physical fitness, education, and outreach.

Noble requested information about the timeline for including all the area agencies in the Challenge Grant. Ginny said they have submitted the grant narrative to the National Council on Aging and it is still a planning process. Noble asked if there was an age limit and Ginny said there is no age limit and it includes anyone with a chronic disease.

The Commission welcomed LaNita Garmany, Communities for Life Project Director at the University of Indianapolis' Center for Aging and Community. LaNita provided information on the Communities for Life Project and presented a slideshow about Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities, or NORCs.

The University of Indianapolis is working with the Division of Aging on the Communities for Life project. They submitted a request for applications throughout the state and received ten applications. Of those ten applications, they awarded funding and technical assistance to five nonprofit organizations in the form of a planning grant. These organizations are to identify and assemble community stakeholders, conduct a needs assessment, analyze, evaluate and interpret the data, develop a program plan for supportive services, and develop a sustainability plan for implementation and growth. The fundamental focus of the Communities for Life project is creating the opportunity for older adults to successfully age in place where and how they choose.

Humbert asked if it was possible to place more emphasis on small and rural counties. LaNita responded that, in developing the RFA, they tried to incorporate rural and urban communities.

Julia Holloway told the Commission that the University of Indianapolis is giving the Division of Aging monthly reports and they can request updates anytime. Ellen Burton was introduced as the Division's contact for NORCs.

The Commission on Aging introduced Amanda Schipp, Strategic Initiatives Program Director with Family and Social Services Administration. Amanda gave a presentation on the Healthy Indiana Plan (HIP) and provided handouts for Commission members.

Applications for HIP are available online at www.hip.in.gov, through your local Division of Family Resources Office, a Hoosier Healthwise Enrollment Center or by calling 1-877-GET-HIP-9.

Amanda welcomed any questions Commission members may have. Humbert asked if information about HIP has been spread to the senior agencies. Amanda said yes, each county's DFR office has applications and information about HIP and can help people enroll. There is also a voluntary community assistance network. Humbert also asked if this information is widespread and available through 211. Amanda said all the information has been distributed statewide and she believes it is available through 211.

Noble inquired about the span of time between when someone calls the phone number and when they are insured, as well as if there is a co-payment. Amanda said that the state has 45 days to process the application once it has been received and coverage starts the first day of the month after the participant makes the first power account contribution. There is

no co-payment except for the emergency room, but the participant's monthly contribution is based on his or her income.

Humbert asked if the state has asked for the insurance companies to help spread the word about HIP. Amanda said yes, while it is in the companies' best interests to inform people of this opportunity, they are not allowed to help people register for the program, as there are two different providers. Both companies, Anthem and MedWise, have local organizations that are distributing information to the public.

Amanda said the program is only three weeks old and they've already had 13,000 applicants. They are very pleased with the response thus far.

Roxsandra said she thinks they did a very nice job educating organizations about the program.

Noble asked if there would be any trouble sustaining the program with tobacco tax funding and Amanda said that it is one of the most reliable funding streams and the State also receives a federal match from Medicaid money for the program.

There were no public comments.

Noble asked the other Commissioners if there were any current congressional district happenings that needed to be heard. There were none.

Roxsandra said that AARP sent out an e-mail about a bill regarding age discrimination in employment and they want people to call their state legislature to support the bill.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Bob Johnson and seconded by Ed Gottschling, with unanimous approval from the Commission.

